

The Big Loop:

Class 1

10.4 miles

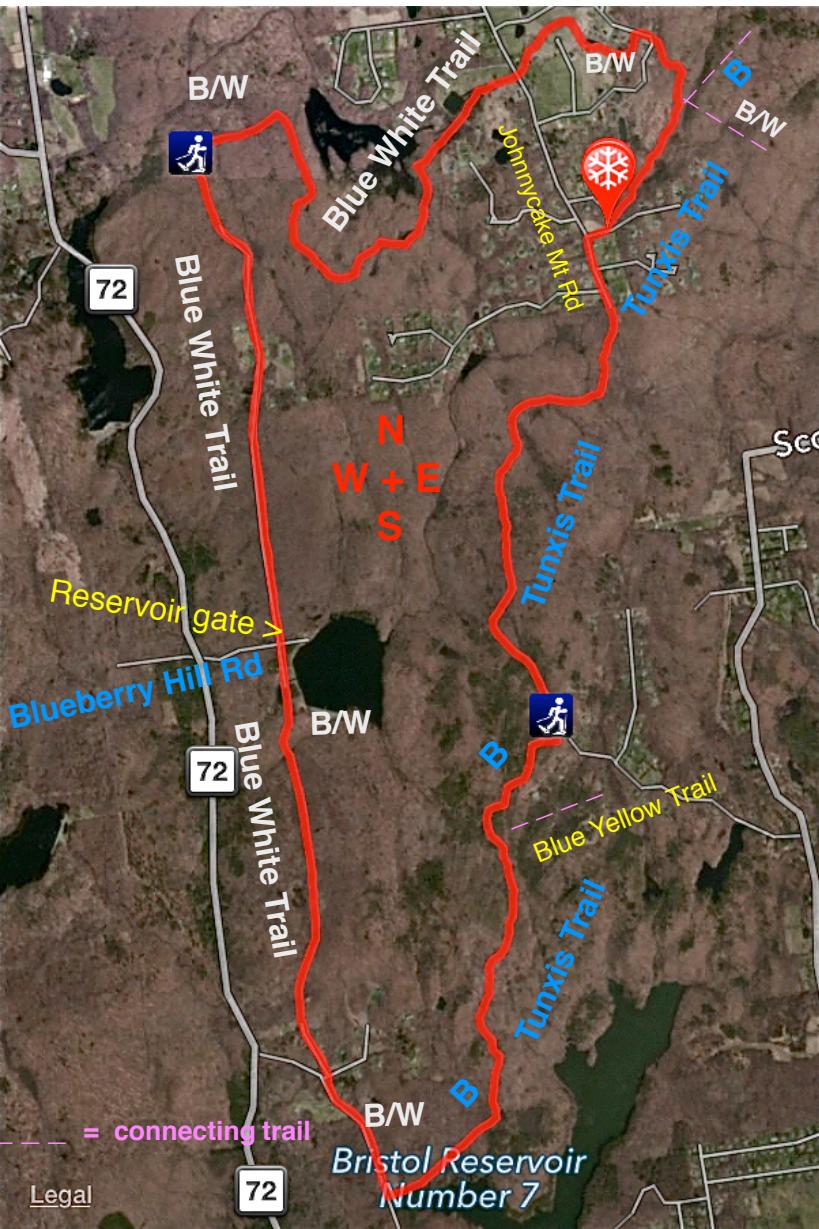
2,050' vertical

5.2 hours

Before starting this 10.4 mile loop hike, it would be prudent to check out the Blue / White trail section between Mountain Top Pass Road and Johnnycake Mountain Road (0.8 - 1.4 miles) because most of this section is through open meadows that can become very overgrown from May to November. If you find this an issue, you can do the Mountain Top Pass road walk bypass shown on the mini map which is also 0.6 miles long.

The other section of the Blue / White Trail that could be a problem in the early spring or after significant rain is at 5.3 miles which is a short distance south from the Reservoir #5 gate on Blueberry Hill Road. A bridge is no longer there, so you would need to discover good stepping stones to cross the stream located on the east side of the old bridge abutment.

The hike begins on Old Field Road, parking west of the first driveway (41.749722 -72.991694). Follow the blue rectangle markers for the Tunxis Trail (B). The start of this trail could have weed issues, but it is very short term. At 0.6 miles turn left onto the Blue / White trail (B/W) that crosses Mountain Top Pass Road at 0.8 miles. Continue west on this road and in 100 yards the B/W trail turns left into the forest. At 1.0 miles the B/W trail enters open meadows. The mini map is a 0.6 mile road walk bypass that could be used if the vegetation is an issue. The B/W trail and the road walk bypass are the same hiking distance of 0.6 miles. Both connect near the mailbox at #157 Johnnycake Mountain Road at 1.4 miles. The B/W then heads west and downhill through a large open field with a wide mowed path. After the mowed trail, you reach a path along the north side of a brook. Cross to the brook's south side. At 3.3 miles the B/W turns south on a dirt road for about a mile, & then makes a sharp left to pick up another dirt road that connects to Blueberry Hill Road at 4.0 miles. At 5.0 miles continue south past the reservoir gate. At 5.3 miles look for stepping stones to cross a brook on the left (east) side of an old bridge abutment. At 6.1 miles the trail merges onto Buckridge Road. Take a quick right then left onto East Church Road which merges into East Plymouth Road at 6.3 miles. At 6.7 miles turn left into a small parking lot and then hike past another Reservoir gate. The B/W ends in 50 yards as it merges onto the Tunxis Trail (B). Continue straight onto the B trail and at 7.5 miles continue straight past the junction with the Blue / Yellow Trail. At 7.7 miles hike by Tory's Den. At 8.5 miles continue straight past the Connector Trail to Greer Road and at 10.2 miles the Tunxis Trail connects with the paved Johnnycake Mountain Road. Continue north and the second street on the right is Old Field Road. Return to your car at 10.4 miles.



Mountain Top Pass bypass mini map

